

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 IO-15 NSAE-00

RSC-01 OPIC-12 SPC-03 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 DOTE-00 L-03 STR-08 AGR-20 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04

INT-08 DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 H-03 COA-02 SS-15

NSF-04 NSC-10 CG-00 OIC-04 FMC-04 DRC-01 /246 W

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P R 031831Z OCT 73

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 757

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, OECD

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: OECD MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 1973

SUMMARY

1. OECD MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MET FOR ONE DAY,
OCTOBER 1. OF MAIN INTEREST TO U.S. WERE EXPRESSIONS
OF CONCERN BY MARITIME STATES RE PENDING OIL CARGO
PREFERENCE BILL AND MARITIME TRANSPORT STATISTICAL INFO-
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RMATION DEVELOPED RE MEMBER COUNTRIES' TRADE WITH USSR.

END SUMMARY.

2. MTC SPECIAL CHAPTER (AGENDA ITEM 5)

MTC AGREED THAT ANNUAL REPORT OF MTC SHOULD CONTAIN SPECIAL CHAPTER ON NATIONAL SHIPPING ACCOUNTS AS PROPOSED BY SECRETARIAT.

3. CONSULTATION EXERCISE (AGENDA ITEM 6)

VERY FEW ORAL QUESTIONS WERE ASKED ABOUT WRITTEN REPLIES OF MEMBER COUNTRIES ON CONSULTATION EXERCISE, EXCEPT FOR THOSE POSED BY U.S. EL, MAINLY SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF REPLIES. STATISTICS ON USSR TRADE SHOWED THAT, AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES PROVIDING DATA, 3RD FLAG CARRIERS HAD BIGGEST SHARE IN U.S. TRADES. THEY SHOWED ALSO THAT SOVIET FLAG CARRIERS CARRIED VAST BULK (88 PER CENT) OF EXPORT TRADE FROM KEY COUNTRIES (FRANCE, UK, AND GERMANY). U.S. DEL CALLED ATTENTION OF COMMITTEE TO THESE STATISTICAL CONCLUSIONS. SECRETARIAT WILL RE-ISSUE CONSULTATION DOCUMENT WITH CORRECTIONS INCLUDED.

4. IN RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMITTED BY AUSTRALIA, UK DEL REPORTED ON BEHALF OF CSG (CONSULTATIVE SHIPPING GROUP) COUNTRIES ON CSG MINISTERIAL MEETING HELD IN LONDON SEPTEMBER 27-28. FRANCE AND SPAIN DID NOT ATTEND CSG MINISTERIAL. OF MAIN INTEREST WAS UK DEL STATEMENT THAT CSG COUNTRIES HAD UNDERWAY STUDIES REGARDING POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY ACTION TO BE TAKEN BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS AGAINST FOREIGN SHIPPING DISCRIMINATION, RELATING EITHER TO CARGO PREFERENCE OR INTERFERENCE IN FREIGHT RATES.

5. SHIPPING POLICY (AGENDA ITEM 7)

U.S. DEL PROVIDED STATUS REPORT ON THREE KEY SHIPPING BILLS IN CONGRESS (OIL CARGO PREFERENCE BILL, INTERMODAL TRANSPORT BILL, AND OFF-SHORE PORT BILL). MEMBERS EVIDENCED LIVELY INTEREST IN OIL PREFERENCE BILL AND, IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE PRE-CONCERTED MOVEMENT, EIGHT DELEGATIONS (NORWAY, SWEDEN, DENMARK, UK, FINLAND, NETHERLANDS, JAPAN, AND GREECE) EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN THAT U.S. MIGHT ADOPT THIS BILL. THEY RECALLED THE CONCERN THEY EXPRESSED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST YEAR OVER SIMILAR OIL PREFERENCE BILL, NOTED THAT BILL WOULD EXTEND CARGO PREFERENCE TO COMMERCIAL CARGO, AND STATED FEAR THAT U.S. ACTION WOULD BE PRECEDENT FOR OTHER, ESPECIALLY OIL-PRODUCING, COUNTRIES TO ADOPT SIMILAR MEASURES. THEY REQUESTED U.S. DEL CONVEY THEIR CONCERN TO "APPROPRIATE U.S. AUTHORITIES". NORWEGIAN SUGGESTION, SUPPORTED BY DENMARK, THAT EXPRESSION OF CONCERN COME FROM MTC AS WHOLE WAS NOT PURSUED FURTHER WHEN U.S.,

FRENCH, AND SPANISH DELS OPPOSED THIS MOVE.

6. U.S. DEL ALSO REPORTED ON CURRENT STATUS OF U.S.-
USSR MARITIME AGREEMENT, (INCLUDING TALKS SCHEDULED FOR
NOVEMBER), FMC DEL VISIT TO USSR, U.S. EXCHANGE OF NOTES WITH
POLAND AND PORT ACCESS, STATUS OF CLC FREEZE ON FREIGHT
RATES. NORWEGIAN DEL REPORTED ON RECENT VISIT TO LATIN
AMERICA ESSENTIALLY ALONG LINES OF THEIR DISCUSSION IN
WASHINGTON. JAPANESE DEL REPORTED THAT JAPAN WOULD BE
HOLDING BILATERAL SHIPPING TALKS WITH U.S. IN OCTOBER AND
BILATERAL TALKS WITH SOVIETS ON TRANS-PACIFIC SHIPPING
PROBLEMS LATER IN FALL.

7. UNCTAD-DISCUSSION DEVOTED MAINLY TO UNCTAD
INVISIBLES DIRECTOR MALINOWSKI LETTER CALLING FOR INTER-
GROUP PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING IN GENEVA DURING WEEK PRIOR
TO OPENING OF UN CONFERENCE ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR LINER
CONFERENCES. MOST GROUP B DELS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO SUCH
MEETING AS EXCEEDING TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PRE-CONFERENCE
MEETING OF 77 AGREED TO IN JUNE PREP COMM MEETING.
FINAL DECISION AS TO GROUP B POSITION TO BE TAKEN DURING
MEETING OF MTC SPECIAL GROUP (OCT 2-6).

8. NEXT SESSION OF MTC SET FOR FEB. 12, 1974.
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